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Willard InterContinental Hotel Receives DC Chamber of Commerce's "2009 Business of the Year" Award

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Washington, DC, July 6, 2009 -- The DC Chamber of Commerce announced its *Chamber Choice Awards*, with top honors going to the Willard InterContinental Hotel for *2009 Business of the Year*. This achievement recognizes the hotel as an industry leader modeling quality processes, fiscal responsibility, positive financial results, sustainable hospitality and social responsibility.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Chamber's Choice Awards. A gala will be held on Saturday, October 17. For more information, visit www.dcchamber.org. Other award recipients include James Bennett, President & CEO of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority for Business Leader of the Year, The Washington Capitals for Economic Impact Award; the Washington Mystics for the Emerging Business of the Year Award and Dr. Dorothy Height, Chair of the National Council of Negro Women for the 2009 Chair's Award.

"All our awardees truly reflect the mission of the DC Chamber of Commerce, they are all committed to success, have made tremendous contributions to the fabric of the city and are successfully bearing up in this tough financial climate", said Barbara B. Lang, President and CEO of the DC Chamber of Commerce.

"The award recognizes our exceptional Willard employees and the excellent work they do every day in exceeding clients' expectations. We realize the Willard has a great legacy and work to continue this for generations of customers and employees to come, by establishing our strategy based on the "Triple Bottom Line" of Profit, People and Planet," said Hervé Houdré, General Manager, Willard InterContinental Washington. "We are extremely lucky to be supported in our efforts by the ownership of our property, *Willard Associates* represented by their management arm *Carr Hospitality*, and by our mother company, InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG)."

An American institution and leader in Sustainable Hospitality, the Willard InterContinental is located in the heart of the nation's capital on Pennsylvania Avenue, near the White House, the Smithsonian museums and the downtown business and theatre districts. A leader in Sustainable Hospitality, the Willard is the Washington D.C. hotel of choice for heads of state and leaders of the world's business, cultural, social and political elite. The hotel's 333 well appointed large guestrooms include 40 elegant suites. Dining options Café du Parc, the popular French bistro with seasonal outdoor seating and traditional Afternoon Tea in Peacock Alley. The luxurious Red Door Spa offers a wide array of pampering treatments. The classic Willard InterContinental combines heritage and luxury with contemporary comfort and the latest technology. The Willard has hosted nearly every U.S. president since 1853. It was at the Willard that Julia Ward Howe wrote The Battle Hymn of the Republic, where President Ulysses S. Grant popularized the term "Lobbyist," Where Abraham Lincoln stayed before moving into the White House, and where Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King finished his renowned "I Have a Dream" speech. Tel. 202-628-9100, or Web site: www.washington.intercontinental.com

"Willard InterContinental - The Next 100 Years" is a holistic sustainable hospitality program in harmony with social and ecological consciousness. Visit www.willarddc.com/sd, a comprehensive guide to the Willard's sustainability efforts.

